Illegal deforestation in U.P.

1421. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal deforestation has been carried out in Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh as a result of which many hilly areas have become bereft of trees;

(b) whether the Central Government have issued any guidelines to Uttar Pradesh Government to check such illegal deforestation;

(c) if so, whether these guidelines have been followed; and

(d) the position in other States regarding such illegal deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) There is no report with the Government that illegal deforestation has been carried out in Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh as a result of which many hilly areas have become bereft of trees. As per National Forest Policy, 1988 the Central Government issued guidelines to various state governments on June 1, 1990 to involve local communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forest lands. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued government resolution in this regard on August 30, 1997, As reported by the state government 197 JFM committees have been constituted and 34,569 ha. of forest area has been covered under Joint Forest Management. There are no reports from other states regarding such illegal deforestation. As per Forest Survey of Indias assessment of 1999, an increase of 3896 sq. kms. of forest cover has been reported as compared to 1997 assessment.

Poaching of Animals in Shimilipal Tiger Reserve

1422. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hunting of animals in Shimilipal Tiger Reserve is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any effort is being made by Government to stop hunting of animals and specially to stop the traditional Akhand Shikar by the local tribals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise

(c) and (d) The details of steps taken to curb Akhand Shikar are as follows:

To check traditional 'Akhand Shikar' by the local tribes depending upon availability of fund, a number of Anti-poaching camps are established inside the Tiger Reserve. Each camp consists of 3 daily-waged persons, who keep on moving in all directions in the hilly terrain & dense forests of Shimilipal, when they come across any group of Akhand-Shikaris, they bring it to into notice of Range Officers & other higher Officers & the Strike Force is sent to check it. During 1998-99, 29 such antipoaching camps were established & during 1999-2000, 24 such camps were established. Further, during Akhand Shikar time, one Officer of the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests in addition to concerned Range Officers & other field staff are always present with the vehicle in the forests to supervise checking of Akhand Shikar etc. Awareness campaign is created in different villages involving village "Dehuris" also, to check Akhand-Shikar, Intelligence collection about movement of villagers is made from villages as well as weekly markets, where village 'dehury' conducts and chalk out the programme for Akhnad-Shikaris. A.P.R. force is also deployed from time to time when being made available by the State Government.